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REPORT BY PANEL OF CONSULTANTS ON SOVMAT

13 December 1952

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OFFICE OF OPERATIONS - SOVMAT

In reviewing the present operations of Sovmat, the ORR Consultants Panel formed the firm opinion that although considerable progress has been made in setting up a procedure, the end result is bulky, awkward and time-consuming. This appears to be due to the many agencies involved in deciding on the scope of the material examinations. In addition, the method of setting up and advising the field agents does not spotlight or establish priority on items to be collected and examined.

As example - the following discussion of petroleum and its products is pertinent.

Reference

Intelligence Materials Requirement  
Petroleum Section - Materials Division  
ASM - 1390 RD B-191  
Soviet Fuels and Lubricants

Discussion

It is very important in attempting to analyze the aims and intents of the Soviet by observing their manipulation of their petroleum industry, to have complete examinations of the finished products of their refineries.

Such examinations if reasonably complete as to nature and range of products could furnish a broad range of answers, when viewed in the light of other refinery intelligence. The types of knowledge which could be added to our intelligence are as follows:

Changes in the quality of products could mean amongst other things --

1. A change in the type or source of crude oil.
2. A new piece of refinery equipment being put on stream.
3. A refinery disaster or fire.
4. A change from peace to war economy.
5. A change in design of consuming equipment.

In view of this, it is recommended that this activity be given a high priority in Sovmat operations. It is particularly recommended that petroleum products be set out on a specific requirement form separate and distinct from coal and briquettes.

Another example in another area of industrial operations follows.

Electronics and electrical material

The list of available Soviet materials seems entirely inadequate and surely represents only a small fraction of what has been acquired. Further, very substantial quantities of additional material have undoubtedly been collected but are still in Korea or Japan. It is important that complete lists of available

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energy material be maintained whether collected by CIA, other branches of government or the services, and whether held in the USA, Korea, or Japan. Unless this is done and the material so covered is subject to call for examination and test, it obviously will be impossible for CIA to serve the purpose for which it was created. While electronics and electrical equipment are the immediate concern of the writer, the foregoing appears to be equally applicable to the whole range of acquired enemy material.

Detailed Remarks

Sheet ASM - 1070

RD B-157

Requirement

This sheet should be revised and expanded to show continuing requirements for large numbers of components of all kinds as available. Only in this way can Soviet progress be followed and charted. It will also assist materially in evaluating their electronic potential.

These discussions of Sovmat with respect to petroleum and electronics are given only as two examples. The entire operation should be studied with the following points in mind.

Recommendations

1. All items listed have the same urgency. This applies to shoe brushes, lipstick, coat hangers, as well as to important items. Relative urgencies should be established.
2. Arrangements should be made to make a great deal more Soviet material available for study.
3. Greater emphasis should be put on this Sovmat program. It appears to be our best hope of getting up-to-date information about the USSR.

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